

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR;SOV;MHENDERSON;VB;REH

APPROVED BY EUR:JAAMITAGE

D/HA:RPALMER (INFORMED)

EUR:SOV:MGARRISON

NSC; MR.CLIFT

EUR/RPM:JMARESCA (SUBSTANCE)

WHITE HOUSEKUROPAS (INFORMED)

C - JMONTGOMERY

S/S - MR. BRIDGES

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P 271637Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239584

MOSCOW FOR MATLOCK

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SREF, ASC, CSCE, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST IN DIVIDED FAMILY, ETC.

CASES -- NEW APPROACH TO SOVIETS

1. THE PRESIDENT, MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS IN APRIL AT MILWAUKEE, DISCUSSED CSCE AND PLEDGED TO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE RESOLUTION OF DIVIDED FAMILY CASES AND OTHER SIMILAR CASES INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENTS OF EASTERN EUROPE. FOLLOWING THIS, THE PRESIDENT'S ETHNIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR RECEIVED A LARGE NUMBER OF LETTERS OVER THE SUMMER APPEALING FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERCESSION IN PARTICULAR CASES. THESE LETTERS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED

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AND A NUMBER OF THEM REFERRED TO INS, BEING QUESTIONS OF

DETERMINATIONS AFFECTING EMIGRANTS MADE BY INS RATHER THAN ISSUES TO BE RAISED WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. SIMILARLY, SOME CASES OF EMIGRANTS ALREADY HERE HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO HEW. THE REMAINING CASES FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

A) VISITS BY SOVIET CITIZENS TO RELATIVES IN THE US;
B) EMIGRATION OF SOVIET CITIZENS TO THE US TO JOIN FAMILY MEMBERS ALREADY HERE; AND C) EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. LISTS HAVE BEEN SENT TO EMBASSY WITH EUR/SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHERROD MCCALL.

2. DEPARTMENT, ON SEPTEMBER 24, PRESENTED THESE LISTS OF

DIVIDED FAMILIES TO SOVIET DCM VORONTSOV. EUR/SOV DIRECTOR EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF LISTS AND SAID THAT NAMES HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE WHITE HOUSE BY AMERICAN CITIZENS ASKING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S INTERCESSION. HE CONVEYED THE PRESIDENT'S INTEREST IN THE RESOLUTION OF THESE CASES. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SOME OF THE NAMES ON THE LISTS WERE ALREADY ON THE US EXIT VISA REPRESENTATION LIST RECENTLY PRESENTED TO THE SOVIET MFA BY AMBASSADOR STOESEL.

3. VORONTSOV ACCEPTED THE LISTS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, BUT WITH SOME RELUCTANCE REGARDING LIST OF CASES OF EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. HE SAID THAT SOVIETS NORMALLY REFUSE TO ACCEPT LISTS OF THESE CASES FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS BECAUSE CASES HAD TO DO WITH ISRAEL RATHER THAN US. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT REFUSE TO TAKE THE LIST BUT THAT HE ACCEPTED IT QUOTE WITH MUCH HESITATION UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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